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MEMORANDUM OF THE HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER FOR HEALTH RIVERS STATE ON THE IMPROVED INFORMATION AND TECHNOLOGY IN DATA CAPTURE SYSTEMS FOLLOWING STATE INTERVENTION.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memo is to inform Council of the States' experience in use of ICT for data capture to improve data quality and its use in decision making in the Health Sector

BACKGROUND:

In line with World Health Organization recommendations, Nigeria has adopted District Health Information Software (DHIS2) as part of the National Health Management Information System. The DHIS2 and the family planning (FP) dashboard were introduced in Rivers State, in 2014 and 2015 respectively, to improve data management, demand and use in the health system. Subsequently, a lot of investments have also been made in capacity building, deployment of electronic devices, and Internet subscriptions for data capturing.

JUSTIFICATION:

There was a preliminary situation analysis of the experiences and perceptions of the health workers who use the electronic tools and the effect of electronic data management on data demand. Thus a study of 56 participants made of Family Planning providers and HIOs at the State, LGA and health facility levels was conducted on the use of technology to manage health data in Rivers State. The study done was to provide information that may lead to an improvement in data quality, demand, and use by stakeholders. This research was funded by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) through the MEASURE Evaluation project. The major findings of the study were;

- i) faulty Information and Communication Technology (ICT) equipment.
- ii) low levels of ICT skills.
- iii) inconsistencies between the electronic forms, in DHIS 2, and the paper-based forms, owing to missing data elements on the electronic forms, and the existence of parallel FP reporting lines.
- iv) insufficient data demand and use culture at all three levels of the healthcare system.
- v) adequate interest and ownership of the electronic platforms by the users.

Subsequently the State in conjunction with her partners inclusive of African Field Epidemiological Network (AFNET) and USAID carried out the following interventions:

- i) Trained the M&E officers on data management through ICT.
- ii) Instituted regular data quality assurance meetings.
- iii) Purchase of ICT equipment including Open Data Kit (ODK) phones and solar computers.
- iv) Funding for internet services

These processes were carried out and co-funded by partners and the State in focused collaboration.

These have resulted to:

- i) Improved data capturing from 56.5% in 2016 to 79.3% in 2017 as seen in the National Health Management Information System (NHMIS) monthly summary.
- ii) Timely reporting from 49.4% in 2016 to 65.4% in 2017 (NHMIS)
- iii) Better quality reporting data as reported by data quality assurance meetings.
- iv) Increased number of facilities reporting.

PRAYERS:

Council is invited to note that there is considerable improvement in the use of information technology for data capturing following state interventions and that States are encouraged to make use of it.

HONOURABLE COMMISSIONER OF HEALTH, RIVERS STATE

JUNE, 2018.